

BUCKSPORT, ORLAND, MSAD 18
REORGANIZATION PLANNING COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
6 pm Tuesday, October 2, 2007
Bucksport Middle School Library

0. The meeting was called to order by Facilitator Ann Bridge at 6 pm.

Members present: Wayne Ames, Laurie Boardman, Millard Clement, Tom Foster, Guy Haney, Rob Howard, Rick Newman (alternate), Roger Raymond, and Jennifer Riefler.

Members absent: Roxanne Mushrall

Facilitator: Ann Bridge

Superintendent: Judy Lucarelli

Others present:

Cecelia Ames (MSAD 18 Board), Ralph Gonzales (Orland Selectman alternate), Nick Gosling (Ellsworth American), Don Houghton (The Enterprise), Jeff Robinson (Bucksport Council alternate)

Comments on Drummond Woodsum workshop.

- Good materials, copy for those who did not attend (Rob, Guy, Jennifer, Roxanne)
- Suggestion that we follow their model for completing the plan.
- Judy will copy the notebook for RPC members who could not attend there conference (copyright permission granted for this).

Ann recently attended a facilitator's meeting

- The current thinking is a school board cannot change the plan presented by the RPC. Each school board submits the plan prepared by the RPC to the Commissioner.
- Penobscot was not denied participating with this RSU; if Boards agree, makeup of RSU can change later in the fall. How would partnership with Penobscot change our current RSU structure, which only involves 1 superintendent?
- On December 1 Boards must submit a plan; there is no expectation that the plan be complete.

1. Moved by Reifler, seconded by Ames, to approve the minutes of 9/17/07 meeting. Motion carried unan.

It was requested that minutes and agendas be sent to alternates.

2. Report on data requested at previous meeting: no data requested
3. Discussion and possible action on Plan Items 2 and 3: School Board Composition, Apportionment, and Voting Methods

The Superintendent presented information on the impact of the four options. Without formal vote, the Committee indicated that Options A and C will be rejected.

- Option A (voting districts of equal population and a member elected from each) would require a redistricting study and maintenance of the districts into the future. It would result in too many Board members in total, and there could be difficulty in finding people to serve on the Board from each district.

- Option C (all members elected at large across 4 towns) could end up with a Board more dominated by Bucksport than population would indicate.

Option B (at least 1 member for each town and representation reflecting the 2000 census) would require 14 school board members. At the conference it was pointed out that the voting power of each member must be within 2% of the average voting power. As a result it appears that Option B would require a minimum of 14 members.

Option D (some other method consistent with one-man-one-vote) appears the most likely choice. It is not clear whether the 2% standard applies to Option D. Ann will check on this with MDE. If it does apply, the 2 options under consideration for board makeup are as follows:

- 14 members consisting of 8 from Bucksport, 4 from Orland, 1 from Prospect, and 1 from Verona.
- 7 members consisting of 4 from Bucksport, 2 from Orland, and 1 from Prospect and Verona combined.

If the 2% standard does not apply, the 2 options under consideration for board makeup are as follows:

- 9 members consisting of 5 from Bucksport, 2 from Orland, 1 from Prospect, and 1 from Verona. In this case each person would have a weighted vote based on their share of the population from their town.
- 7 members consisting of 4 from Bucksport, 2 from Orland, and 1 from Prospect and Verona combined.

Once there is an answer from MDE, Judy will share it with RPC members and the 3 school boards, as well as in next newsletter to get input from citizens.

4. Discussion of Plan Item 4 if time permits: Composition, Powers and Duties of Any Local School Committees to Be Created

This would apply to Orland: it is not likely that Bucksport would want a school committee, and MSAD 18 would not be eligible for one.

Pros & cons of having both a School Board and School Committee.

- Impact on joint board where purpose is to work together, if just one town has a school committee.
- Could get buy-in and community involvement if Orland had a School Committee.
- Possibility of approving a school committee for a specified period of time, such as 5 years.
- Bucksport not interested in a separate school committee, according to RPC members
- Ask boards about this in October meetings
- Duties might include: different dress codes; different program offerings
- Fundamental premise is equity of educational opportunity for all students; separate school committee creates inequity

5. Discussion of Plan Item 5 if time permits: Disposition of Real and Personal Property

Judy provided a brief overview of the list of property in the notebook.

6. Schedule Two Meetings:

Confirmed the meeting 6 pm October 15 in the Bucksport Middle School Library

An additional meeting was scheduled for 6 pm October 22 in the BMS Library

7. Develop Agenda for Next Meeting

- Clarification on 2% voting requirement, then vote on items 2 & 3
- Creation of a School Committee: vote on this
- Discussion of 5: which properties to send to RSU and which to keep with towns
- Discussion of 6: what is the impact of Bucksport Debt Service on Orland and MSAD 18

8. Identify additional data to be provided at the next meeting

- Preschool population birth to age 5 for each town.

9. Moved by Roger, seconded by Rick to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried unanimously. Meeting was adjourned at 8 pm.